III. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Withdrawn) A starting-process controller for starting a piezomotor (4),
- having a voltage-controlled oscillator (1)(VCO), a power output stage (2), and a resonance converter (3), wherein
- the oscillator (1)(VCO) generates the control signals required for the power output stage (2),
- the resonance converter (3) converts the stepped output voltage from the power output stage (2) into a sinusoidal voltage at its output,
- the piezomotor (4) is driven by the sinusoidal voltage from the resonance converter (3),
- the motor current that flows when the piezomotor (4) is driven is measured and compared with the phase of the drive voltage in a phase comparator (6),
- the output signal from the phase comparator (6) is a measure for the phase difference at the time between current and voltage,
- a phase-locked loop filter (8) smoothes the phase-difference signal,
- the smoothed signal controls the oscillator (1)(VCO), and
- a start-assisting circuit element (10) fixes the output voltage from the phase-locked loop filter (8) at start-up and thus applies a constant voltage to the input of the voltage-controlled oscillator (1)(VCO).

2 – 4 (Cancelled)

5. (Withdrawn) A starting-process controller as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the length in time of a signal for activating the switching element (10) is set to a fixed duration from the beginning of start-up.

6. (Withdrawn) A starting-process controller as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the activating signal causes the motor (4) to break away.

7. (Withdrawn) A starting-process controller as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the activating signal is triggered by the "power-on".

8. (Withdrawn) A starting-process controller as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the activating signal is generated by a digital counter or a state machine.

9. (Withdrawn) A starting-process controller as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the activating signal is generated by a digital processor.

10. (Currently Amended) A starting-process controller for starting a piezomotor ~~(4)~~, comprising:

- ~~having~~ a voltage-controlled oscillator ~~(1)~~(VCO), a power output stage ~~(2)~~, and a resonance converter ~~(3)~~, wherein
- the VCO ~~oscillator (1)(VCO)~~ generates the control signals required for the power output stage ~~(2)~~,
- the resonance converter ~~(3)~~ converts the stepped output voltage from the power output stage ~~(2)~~ into a sinusoidal voltage at its output,
- the piezomotor ~~(4)~~ is driven by the sinusoidal voltage from the resonance converter ~~(3)~~,
- the motor current that flows when the piezomotor ~~(4)~~ is driven is measured and compared with the phase of the drive voltage in a phase comparator ~~(6)~~,
- the output signal from the phase comparator ~~(6)~~ is a measure for the phase difference at the time between current and voltage,
- a phase-locked loop filter ~~(8)~~ configured to smooth~~es~~ the phase-difference signal,
- the smoothed signal controls the VCO ~~oscillator (1)(VCO)~~, and
- an adjustable time-delay element ~~(15) is provided~~, by which the phase angle between the voltage applied to the motor and the motor current is changed in start-up operation from an initially large starting angle towards a smaller angle at ~~the~~ an operating point~~, so that start-up will be completed safely and reliably irrespective of the loading condition~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ starting-process controller ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the reduction in phase-angle during the start-up process is in the form of a ramp.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ starting-process controller ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the reduction in phase-angle during the start-up process is effected by means of a digital counter ~~(15a)~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ starting-process controller ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the starting value of the counter ~~(15a)~~ fixes the phase-angle.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ starting-process controller ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the phase-angle is fixed by the final count reached by the digital counter ~~(15a)~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ starting-process controller ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the start-up process is determined by means of a counter ~~(11a)~~.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ starting-process controller ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the counter ~~(11a)~~ counts single or multiple oscillations of the oscillator frequency.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ starting-process controller ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 15, characterized in that the counter (11a) counts oscillations of a reference frequency forming a clock signal.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ starting-process controller ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the counts made by the counter ~~(11a)~~ are used directly for setting the phase delay.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ starting-process controller ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the counts are converted into the value for setting the phase delay.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ starting-process controller ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the counts are converted into values for setting the phase delay by means of a table ~~(16)~~ in a memory device ~~(RAM or ROM)~~.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ starting-process controller ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the starting process is monitored by a programmable control device ~~such as a microprocessor or a DSP~~.

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ starting-process controller ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 21, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the microprocessor monitors the phase delay digitally.